

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 5-13 remain in the application. Claim 8 has been amended. Claims 2-4 have been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 8 has been objected to because of an informality. Appropriate correction has been made.

In item 3 on pages 3-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 5-13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Hawryluk et al. (US Pat. No. 6,366,308 B1) in view of Bees (US pat. No. 4,716,569) and APA of pages 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 12-13 call for, inter alia:

at least one semiconductor laser being supplied with a current using DC and AC components, being operated in multimode, being mode coupled and emitting laser radiation having ultra-short pulses with a duration of less than 1 ns. (Emphasis added.)

Hawryluk et al. disclose an apparatus for performing laser thermal processing, e.g., on semiconductor work pieces. The apparatus includes a solid state laser which emits light pulses with a pulse length between 1 nanosecond and 1 microsecond (see column 3, lines 61-64). Examples of solid state lasers include Nd:YAG lasers, Nd:glass lasers, Alexandrite lasers and Ti:Saphire lasers (see column 5, lines 36-41). In contrast to the Examiner's statement in item 3 on page 3 of the Office Action, Hawryluk et al. do not disclose a semiconductor laser, but only the use of solid state lasers.

Bees discloses a power supply for a gas discharge laser with an adjustable, constant current power source (see column 2, lines 41-54). The laser tube 14 includes two electrodes 24, 26 for electrically connecting the adjustable constant power 10 thereto (see column 4, lines 17-20). The power supply 10 has only a rectifier 32 for converting an incoming AC voltage such as from an electrical wall outlet into a DC voltage (see column 4, lines 46-50). In contrast to the Examiner's

statement in item 3 on page 4 of the Office action, Bees does not disclose a laser source being supplied with a current using DC and AC components, but a constant voltage for the gas discharge.

Since Hawryluk et al. relate to a solid state laser and Bees relates to a gas discharge laser, a person skilled in the art would not have combined the teaching of these two documents with the intention to provide a device for forming an image on a printing plate because he or she would not find any hint in the documents which motivates such an approach. There is no hint in the documents that other lasing materials, especially a semiconductor, could be used as well.

Even if a person skilled in the art had combined these documents, the invention of the instant application would not have been obtained because neither Hawryluk et al. nor Bees disclose or render obvious a semiconductor laser being supplied with a current using DC and AC components. An application of the teaching of APA to the combination of Hawryluk et al. and Bees also would not lead to the invention of the instant application because no replacement of the solid state laser or gas discharge laser by a semiconductor laser is taught or necessary.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 12-13. Claims 1 and 12-13 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5-13 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the

Applc. No.: 09/901,525
Amdt. Dated December 10, 2003
Reply to Office action of September 11, 2003

Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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December 10, 2003

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